

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 627

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ML, KN

SUBJ: VISIT OF MALIAN PRESIDENT TO NORTH KOREA

1. SEYDOU TRAORE, SEC GEN OF FONOFF, HAS TOLD ME THAT MALIAN PRESIDENT, COL. MOUSSA TRAORE, HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT NORTH KOREA THIS SPRING, AND HAS ACCEPTED. TRAORE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOM WAS IRRITATED AT THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR THE SOMEWHAT PEREMPTORY MANNER IN WHICH THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED, AND DESCRIBED HIM AS BEING MALADROIT. IT APPEARS THAT HE GAVE THE MALIAN PRESIDENT NO CHOICE, BUT SIMPLY SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WELCOME IN NORTH KOREA ON SUCH AND SUCH A DATE.

2. THE SEC GEN COMMENTED THAT THE GOM SINCERELY HOPED THAT THE RUMORS OF THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF THE PRESENT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR, KIM DJOUNG KEUL, WERE TRUE BECAUSE OTHERWISE HE WOULD BE THE DEAN OF THE DIP. CORPS UPON THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRESENT DEAN, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, IN MARCH. THE GOM IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN WOULD NOT EXERCISE HIS DUTIES AS DEAN OF THE CORPS WITH RESPECT TO ALL EMBASSIES HERE. AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST, THE PRECEDENCE FOLLOWING THE NORTH KOREAN IS THE GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR AND THEN ME. MCGUIRE

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